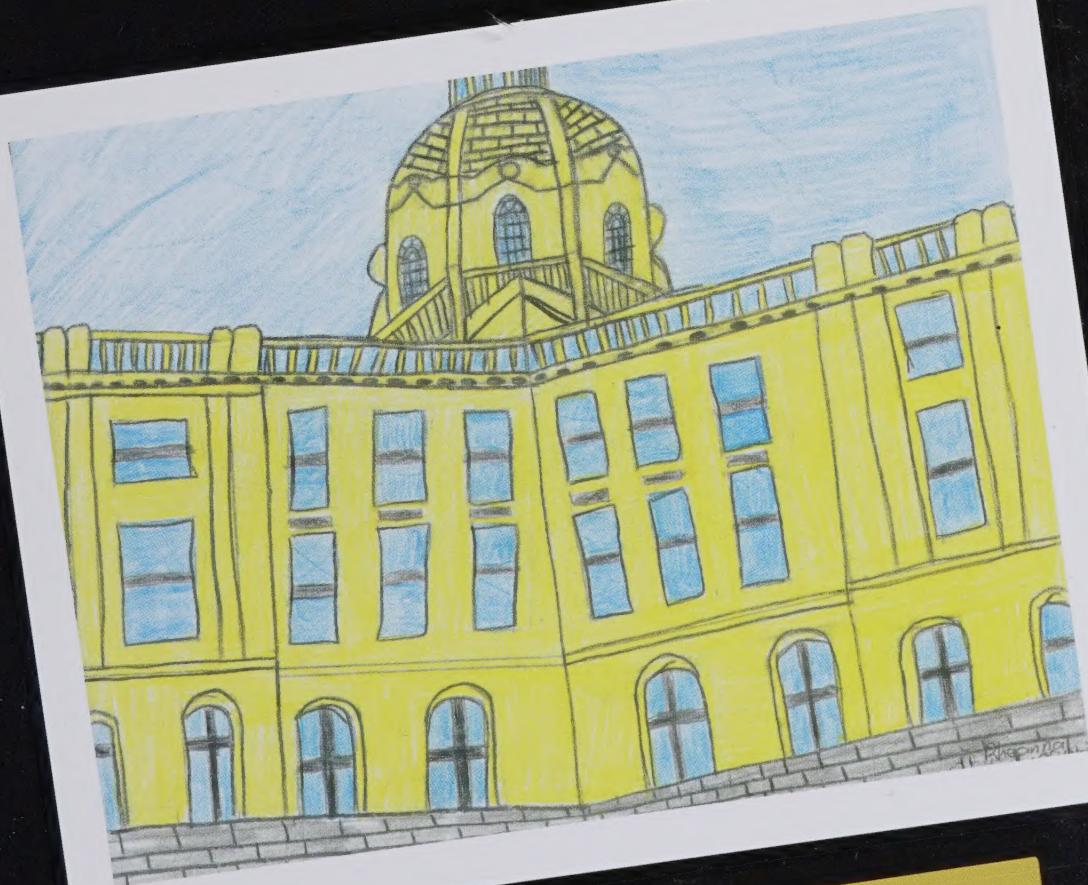


# SCHOOL at the LEGISLATURE

Putting Life into Learning



Report Card 2003/2004

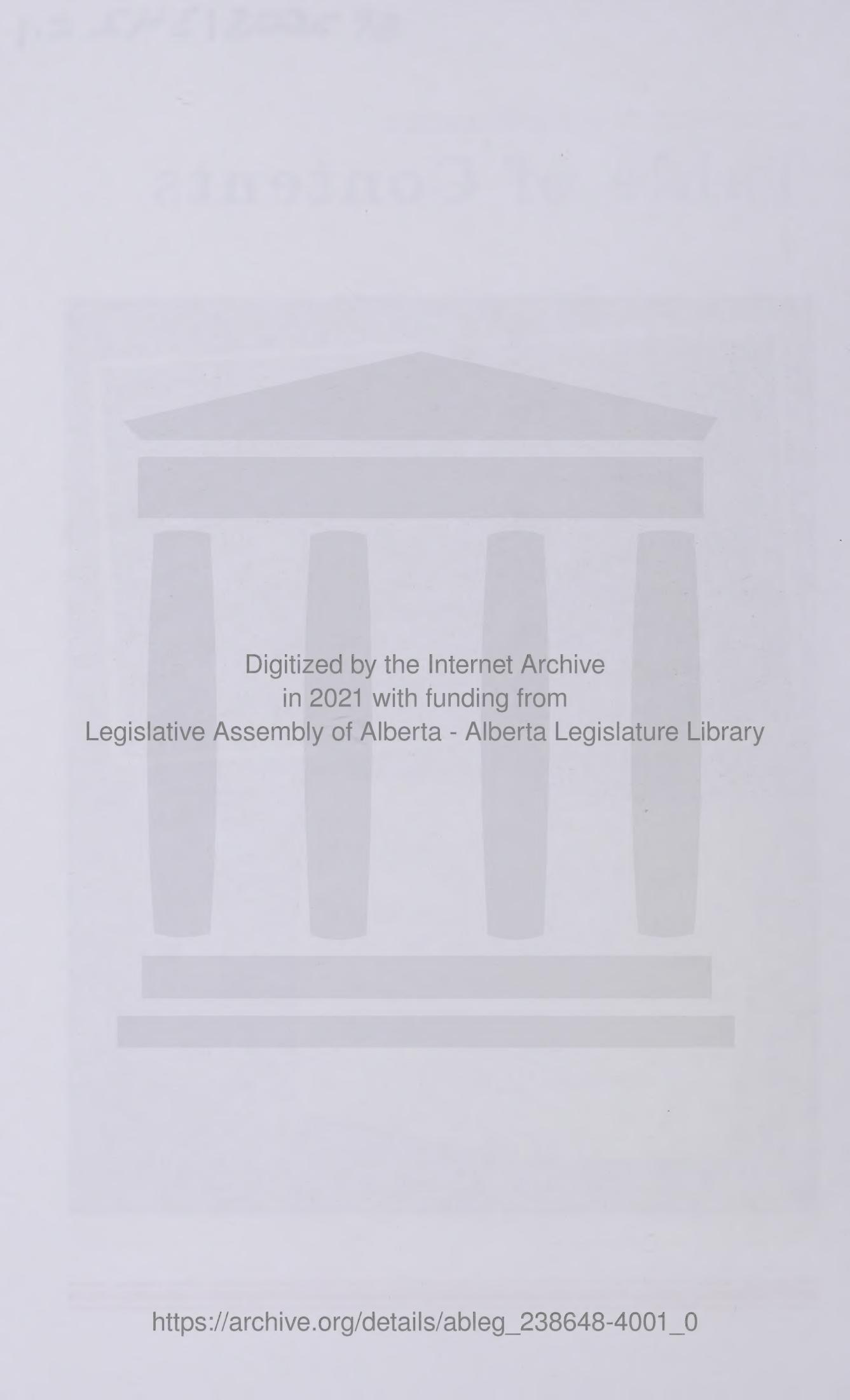


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"Thousands of Grade 6 students have become engaged in learning through enrollment in the School-at-the-Legislature program."

Hon. Ken Kowalski  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

A faint, light gray watermark of the Alberta Legislature building is visible in the background. The building features a classical design with four prominent columns supporting a triangular pediment.

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
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# Speaker's Message

Last year, School-at-the-Legislature gave more than 700 students an intimate look at the inner workings of government and parliamentary traditions that have guided Assemblies for centuries.

Through the support of our community partners: Capital City Savings and Credit Union and Priority Printing Ltd. as well as the commitment of Legislative Assembly staff, these students were given the opportunity to become well-informed, responsible citizens, and teachers were given the opportunity to truly bring their lessons to life.

This report card is an account of the program's progress to date, but also tucked within its pages are testimonials from students, teachers and staff who have been engaged in learning.

“... students were given the opportunity to become well-informed, responsible citizens, and teachers were given the opportunity to truly bring their lessons to life.”

Hon. Ken Kowalski  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



# Program Objectives



A photograph of a young boy with brown hair, wearing a light-colored t-shirt and a lanyard, smiling and holding a small object in his hands. The photo is mounted on a brown background with three blue pushpins.

"One of the great experiences of my life was a program called School-at-the-Leg. I will tell you what my class and I thought of it."



## Program Objectives

- To provide students with a memorable and fun-filled learning experience of Alberta's parliamentary democratic process.
- To facilitate interdisciplinary learning experiences at the Legislature that complement the Alberta curriculum.
- To convey to the educational community and the public that the Legislature and the parliamentary process belong to them.
- To provide MLAs and Legislature staff an opportunity to participate in the learning experience of children.





MLA

Sergeant at arms



# Year in Review



"This is a tour guide telling the class about the Legislature building. Seeing things for real and not just a description of it was great and a more fun way to learn. I loved the tour."



## Year in Review

School-at-the-Legislature involved 29 classes, over 700 Grade 6 students, during the 2003–04 school year.

The Legislature community continues to embrace the program by volunteering time to take part in student interviews, which ensure that students come away with an in-depth and hands-on experience of the parliamentary process.

The comments made by students, teachers and Legislative Assembly staff indicate that all participants from students to staff make positive interpersonal connections through the program and find it a rewarding experience.

In August 2003, the Assembly held a two-day workshop in the School-at-the-Legislature classroom to prepare teachers for the program. This annual workshop gives teachers an opportunity to develop a support network for sharing ideas and a lesson plan for the week. It also allows teachers to acquaint themselves with the program, scheduling and site layout.

As always, School-at-the-Legislature would not be possible without the generous support from our community partners Capital City Savings and Credit Union Limited and Priority Printing Limited.

## SATL Enrollment

Tables 1 and 2 list schools and the number of participants enrolled in the program. Eight schools sent more than one class.



**Table 1: Number of Participants**

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Classes	7	20	22	29
Students	195	502	619	714
Teachers	8	25	30	29
Volunteers	26	123	153	310
Total	236	670	824	1082

**Table 2: Participating Schools for 2003/04**

School	Class Numbers	Total Student Numbers	Area
Alexander Education	1	15	Morinville
Bishop Savaryn	2	40	Edmonton
Bisset Elementary	1	27	Edmonton
Clara Tyner	1	25	Edmonton
Delton Elementary	2	39	Edmonton
Eleanor Hall School	1	26	Clyde
Forest Heights	2	55	Edmonton
Garneau Elementary	1	25	Edmonton
Keenooshayo	2	56	St. Albert
Leo Nickerson	1	20	St. Albert
Lynnwood	1	19	Edmonton
Mary Hanley	1	27	Edmonton
Meadowlark	2	40	Edmonton
Michael A. Kostek	2	62	Edmonton
Millwoods Christian	1	22	Edmonton
Mundare School	1	27	Mundare
Our Lady of Victories	1	18	Edmonton
Patricia Heights	2	59	Edmonton
Rimbey Elementary	2	49	Rimbey
Terrace Heights	1	33	Edmonton
Tipaskan Elementary	1	30	Edmonton
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>714</b>

## Let's Talk!

The Members and staff of the Assembly have been involved in the program since the beginning and continue to share their knowledge and experience with students. Students book interviews to learn about the specific roles and responsibilities of offices and departments that constitute the Legislative community.

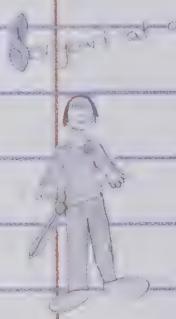
### My Interview Checklist

- The Lieutenant Governor's Office
- The Speaker's Office
- The Premier's Office
- Government Members
- Liberal Opposition Members
- New Democrat Opposition Members
- The Clerk of the Assembly
- The Clerk Assistant
- The Procedural Clerk
- Financial Management/Admin. Services
- Human Resource Services
- Information Technology Services
- Legislature Library
- Parliamentary Counsel
- Hansard*
- The Sergeant-at-Arms & Visitor Services
- The Press Gallery
- Legislature Building and Pedway Security
- Department of Infrastructure
- Officers of the Legislative Assembly





M-A



# Getting the Word Out



"That's a group interviewing  
the Clerk Assistant.  
By interviewing important  
people, I learned what a  
Lieutenant Governor, the  
Clerk and other jobs do."



## Getting the word out

The Legislative Assembly, in cooperation with its community partners, has promoted the program through mailouts, teacher workshops, the Legislative Assembly website and advertisements placed in the *Edmonton Journal*, community newspapers and *ATA Magazine* (Alberta Teachers' Association). This past year we vigorously promoted the program to rural schools by sending mailouts to those that have visited the Legislature for one-day field trips.

During the summer of 2004, Legislative Assembly Staff involved with the program were contacted in person to discuss continued involvement with the program.

Classroom presentations by community partner, Capital City Savings and Credit Union, were scheduled for each participating class.

In order to facilitate ongoing cooperation with site coordinators from other school programs such as Museum School, Zoo School, Ice School and Fort Edmonton School, regular monthly meetings were organized. Consolidation of information sessions for teachers was established and in 2004, teachers attended one joint seminar highlighting all the available site schools in Edmonton.

Both the Northern Teachers Conference and the Greater Edmonton Teachers Conference were attended and promotional material was distributed.

New sponsorship was also pursued.



MA

B went at last



# Dollars and Cents



"This was during Mock Leg. That is the Sergeant-at-Arms, well, not the real sergeant. Anyways, I learned tons of things, now I know more about government than my parents do."



## Dollars and Cents

The School-at-the-Legislature program is funded by its community partners, whose support has been instrumental to the success of the program. See Table 3 for a list of program revenues and expenses.

**Table 3: 2003–04 Program Budget**

	2003/04 Projected	2003/04 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>		
Capital City Savings	25,000	25,000
Legislative Assembly of Alberta and Program Fees	46,000	50,279
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$ 71,000</i>	<i>\$ 75,279</i>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Postage and Freight	1,000	850
Telecommunications	0	0
Other Labour and Services	60,000	*58,099
Travel	1,000	9,042
Hosting	1,000	83
Office Administration	1,000	2,668
Advertising	7,000	4,537
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$ 71,000</i>	<i>\$ 75,279</i>

**Notes:**

- In-kind sponsorship was provided by Priority Printing Limited in the amount of \$18,515.
- These figures cover the Fiscal year April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004.
- The School-at-the-Legislature program ran from September 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004.

\*Program coordinator transition



M-A

B agent at camp



# Appendices



"This is the Press Gallery. We got to ask important questions like the media would."

"In conclusion, I had a really great time. I learned new things, met new people and had great experiences that I never would have had otherwise."

A Grade 6 student



## Appendix A: Curriculum Connection

The School-at-the-Legislature program is closely connected to the Grade 6 curriculum. While Social Studies and Language Arts are the two most common curriculum links, the program also provides room for Math, Science, Physical Education and Art connections.

Along with an application form, teachers are asked to submit a lesson plan outlining how they will take advantage of the week on site and how their experience at the Legislature relates to classroom work throughout the year. Some of those ideas are included here.

### Social Studies

- Participating in a parliamentary debate.
- Studying the three levels of government.
- Learning how people take part in government, including the election process.
- Discovering how responsibilities and rights as a citizen begin at the local level.
- Creating a map of Alberta's 83 constituencies.
- Learning about the architecture of the Legislature Building.
- Comparing/contrasting how people in China and Canada meet their needs. Includes a Chinatown trip.
- Recognizing how Greece has affected western civilization through values, beliefs and ideas.

## **English/Language Arts**

- Writing in student journals.
- Taking notes during interviews.
- Writing newspaper articles.
- Preparing reports based on interviews.
- Creating a newsletter based on the week at the Legislature.
- Finding out how the media collects and distributes information.
- Presenting information by individuals, groups, or the class.



MA

## **Art**

- Sketching the Legislature Building interior and exterior.
- Analyzing form in nature and in man-made objects.
- Creating newspaper collages.



## **Science**

- Taking nature walks on the grounds or conducting an environmental audit.
- Studying the river valley ecosystem.
- Identifying trees and vegetation on the Legislature grounds.
- Studying air and flight characteristics.
- Learning how to gather and analyze evidence and how to investigate. This includes a trip to the Law Courts.

## **Math**

- Learning how the government collects and distributes tax dollars.
- Measuring and graphing sizes and shapes on the Legislature grounds.
- Conducting a statistical analysis of budgets.

## **Physical Education**

- Completing the Health Walk Loops in the Legislature pedway.
- Taking a self-guided tour of the Legislature grounds.
- Walking in the river valley.
- Ice skating on the Legislature Grounds in the winter.

## **Life Careers**

- Comparing how school habits relate to the world of work.
- Learning about different occupations.



## Appendix B: Evaluation Summary

The response from students, teachers, MLAs and Legislative Assembly staff regarding the program has been very positive.

The following comments are based on evaluations received from students and teachers throughout the program year.

1. What do you remember the most from the week at the Alberta Legislature?

The four most common comments were:

“The view from the top [of the Legislature Building].”  
“Meeting Her Honour [Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole].”  
“Job Shadowing.”  
“Fun.”

2. What were the top three things that you learned that were new and interesting?

The comments depended on the interviews each student had. For the most part the focus was on learning about the roles of government and opposition, as well as the responsibilities of MLAs and Assembly staff. A selection of comments follows.

“About democracy.”  
“The history of the Legislature.”  
“The Speaker can sleep in the [Legislature] building.”

3. What were the top three things you didn't like?

Quite a few comments indicated that participants wanted to stay longer at the site. The three most common comments were:

“Climbing the stairs.”

“Only one microwave in the classroom.”

“The Cafeteria.”

4. Is there something that you would change?

A large number of students indicated that they would like to spend more time in the program. Some comments follow:

“Meet the Premier and have a class interview with the Lieutenant Governor.”

“Have the Mock Legislature program held in the Chamber.”

“Go around the Legislature on our own without parents.”

5. Was there something that you wish you had done during the week?

While this question brought out a variety of responses, quite a few students mentioned they would like to have met the Premier. A few other student responses are listed below.

“Go to the fancy cafeteria.”

“Spend more time drawing.”

“Pet the rabbit on the grounds.”

## 6. Any other suggestions or comments?

Here students were given the opportunity to comment on any aspect of the program not covered in previous questions. Some of their comments follow.

"Best field trip I have ever been on."

"SATL Rocks."

"I [will] never forget it. I will remember this trip forever."



**CAPITAL CITY SAVINGS**

Diana Panizzon  
Program Administrator, Visitor Services  
Legislative Assembly of Alberta  
Pedway Mall, Government Centre  
10820 98 Avenue  
Edmonton AB T5K 2N6

Dear Ms. Panizzon:

Capital City Savings and Credit Union Limited has been a proud sponsor of School at the Legislature program since it was launched in November 2000.

As an active supporter of youth development in our communities, Capital City Savings believes that School at the Legislature plays an important role preparing young people for their role as citizens of Alberta. School at the Legislature provides them with unique, firsthand experience of the legislative process that will give them the confidence to become full participants in our society when they come of age.

We treasure the hundreds of letters Capital City Savings has received from students who have participated in School at the Legislature. The students talk about their adventures during their week at the Legislature, and tell us how much they appreciate our support of the program. Capital City Savings is proud to contribute in a meaningful way to their education.

School at the Legislature is operated by the Visitor Services team at the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, and they have been a pleasure to work with. They are always open to new ideas and eager to involve Capital City Savings in all aspects of the program. Importantly, they ensure that our volunteers and organization know how much they appreciate our support.

Sincerely,

Harry Buddle  
President and CEO



**Capital City Savings and Credit Union Limited**  
8723-82 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6C 0Y9  
Tel (780) 496-2000, Fax (780) 468-5220  
[Http://www.capitalcitysavings.ca](http://www.capitalcitysavings.ca)



August 13, 2004

Honourable Ken Kowalski  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Room 325 Legislature Building  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

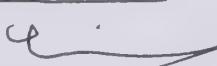
It is with great pleasure that I offer my company's support and my personal endorsement for the 2004 - 2005 School-at-the-Legislature program presented by the Legislative Assembly Office.

This will be our second year as a Community Partner for this very worthwhile and important program.

As you know, I had the honour of sitting in on a parliamentary debate early in 2004. Watching a grade six class during the session was a highlight of my visit. The entire class was obviously taken by the whole experience as they were all on the edge of their seats the entire time. It was wonderful to watch their faces experiencing history and democracy first hand.

After my visit it was obvious to me that this is a very successful program, and I now know for sure that Priority Printing's investment in the School-at-the-Legislature program is meaningful and provides a rich learning experience for Alberta's youth.

Sincerely yours,

  
Tim Downey  
President  
Priority Printing Ltd.

cc: Diana Panizzon





Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta  
3 Floor, Legislative Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6

The Honourable Ken Kowalski  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Room 325 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Mr Speaker,

Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable Dr Lois E Hole, CM, AOE, would like to offer her continued support for the **School-at-the-Legislature Program for the 2003-2004 school year**. Her Honour has received much enjoyment from visiting with these students in the past.

We anticipate that Her Honour's schedule will be particularly busy during the upcoming year and so we kindly ask that groups visiting our office be advised that they will meet with the Private Secretary. On those occasions when the Lieutenant Governor is available, we will schedule in her participation, but we expect this will be on a much less regular basis than in the past.

I have discussed this arrangement with Diana Panizzon in Visitor Services and she finds it to be very suitable to the program's needs.

Thank you for continuing with this effective educational program.

Sincerely,

Sandra Kereliuk  
Private Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor

cc: Diana Panizzon *CKL*



## OFFICE OF THE ETHICS COMMISSIONER

Donald M Hamilton, Commissioner

July 16, 2004

Hon. Kenneth R. Kowalski  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
325 Legislature Building  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

**Re: School-at-the-Legislature Program**

I was asked to participate in the School-at-the-Legislature program on two occasions this year: March 17, for Grade 6 Students from Garneau Elementary and on April 21 for students from Terrace Heights Elementary. I had an interesting time on both occasions I attended the class.

I think this program is a very worthwhile endeavour and I support its continuation.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Hamilton  
Ethics Commissioner

cc: Diana Panizzon



Office of the Information  
and Privacy Commissioner

#410, 9925 - 109 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Canada T5K 2J8  
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Email: [generalinfo@oipc.ab.ca](mailto:generalinfo@oipc.ab.ca)

June 28, 2004

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, M.L.A.  
Speaker  
325 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

RE: School at the Legislature Program

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my support for the "School at the Legislature" program.

I have spoken to two groups within this program, and I enjoyed both presentations greatly. I found the kids to be enthusiastic and curious. Our children are Alberta's greatest resource; enabling them to become familiar with government workings and processes at an early age can only help to foster interest in the later stages of their lives. I wish to express my hope that the program continues.

Sincerely,

Frank Work, Q.C.  
Information and Privacy Commissioner

cc. Diane Panizzon  
School at the Legislature Program





2, 4, 6, 8...  
who do we appreciate?

## Community Partners



Legislative Assembly of Alberta